SUNSHINE COLUMN

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF INTER-NATIONAL, SUNSHINE SOCIETY.

Mrs. J. M. Ransier, State President, Hendersonville, N. C.

The constitution, by-laws and names of officers of the society will be furnished on application. Each correspondent should enclose stemp for reply

close stamp for reply. International Colors-Yellow and White. State Colors-Turquoise, Blue. International Flower-Coreopsis. State Flower-Marguerite. Motto-Good Cheer. Society Song-Scatter Sunshine.

MRS. RANSIER'S LETTER.

Sunshine for Shut-Ins.

Davison, Mich., March 19, 1904. Mrs. J. M. Ransier, North Carolina Sunshine President.

Dear Mrs. Ransier:—I have often read your page in The Progressive Farmer.

I meant to write for your birthday, but trusted to memory and got it in mind as the 20th. We will be children again and play "Pretend," and now it is the 12th when you read this and the flood of years has paused, nay turned backward, and I "guess" you are ten. The glad spring sun is shining, filling all nature with Hope, Faith and Charity. But of these three Hope is the greatest with you—and life stretches down the long vistas of time gay, golden and glorious.

Alas! that the optimism of children should bear its fruit of pain. I wonder if pain is necessary in our evolution toward a higher life? I am getting my full measure of it physical and non-material. Now there are many things about your Sunshine Society that arouse questions. * * * In response to your call for flower seeds, I enclose a few, though I fear it is too late for your latitude, to sow them now. We still have good sleighing here—since December 17—without serious interruption. On March 17 we had a terrific fall of snow, to-day snow and rain-snow and rain! Like lifesunshine and tears. * * * It occurs to me you can establish a fund and a permanent business for shut-in Sunshiners through the mail order business.

It is something shut-ins can do and will furnish the means for mental activity and some spending money as well. For example, suppose you take up a history of Sunshiners, general and special, by individual members' experiences (you can call on them for records), making a book to sell at from 25 cents to one dollar.

A shut-in might take up the mailing, of cotton plant specimens to the many who never saw them at the North-schools and scholars, for examples. Leaf, "squares," bloom and bolls, lint and seed; photos of planting, culture, picking, ginning, etc. Another could sell photos of scenery or various subjects that are to be found in the South only. Samples of minerals or woods—the field is large. Will the Sunshiners who are in the position to do so take hold and build up a business?

EARNEST HOLLENBECK.

The above letter speaks for itself. If you know as we do the number of I tiny.—Middleton.

people who are confined to their homes-not by a temporary illness, but for years, you would be more than surprised. And more than this, they are as a class bright, cheerful, happy, always planning, or doing something for some one else-in fact, true Sunshiners. Of course there are exceptions to the rule in this as in everything. Mr. Hollenbeck is now enrolled with The Progressive Farmer Circle, and we hope to hear from him often. While we are on the subject we will say that there are in the United States two organizations of the shut-in people besides those who are identified with Sunshine, each having a paper devoted entirely to their society.

The Sunshine Circles have many wheel chairs loaned out to those needing them. If you happen to have one to pass on, notify the State President, and arrangements will be made where it can be put in use at once.

A few good magazines come in every month, but it is better for you to write to headquarters and let us send you the address so you can send direct to the ones needing reading matter, thus saving postage stamps. The stamp box at headquarters is always virtually empty-letters always waiting for stamps so that they can go out. If you ask questions of the President to be answered by mail, you must enclose a stamp, otherwise it will be impossible to answer.

The correspondence Circles are proving immensely popular with old and young alike. Do you know about them?

To those who have not as yet received their raspberry plants, we will say that they will be sent out soon. The rush of spring has delayed some orders. The flower seeds have all been sent out, so that if no more come in that part of the work is done until time for the fall seeding. Pansy seed will be in good demand.

Who has some Indian relics to exchange. One of the Sunshine members—W. C. Henry, Shelby, N. C. is a shut-in-having been an invalid for twelve years, is the agent for a number of the current magazines. He will take your order for anything you may want in that line at publishers prices. Write him.

Every county in the State is welcome to follow the example of Union's telephone system, and The Progressive Farmer is doing other sections a good turn by directing their attention to this example.-Monroe Journal.

The precepts of Jesus are the essential element of his religion. Regard these as your rule of life, and you build your house upon a rock. Live them out, indeed, and you have entered the kingdom of heaven,you even now enter it.—Channing.

'Tis vain to quarrel with our des-



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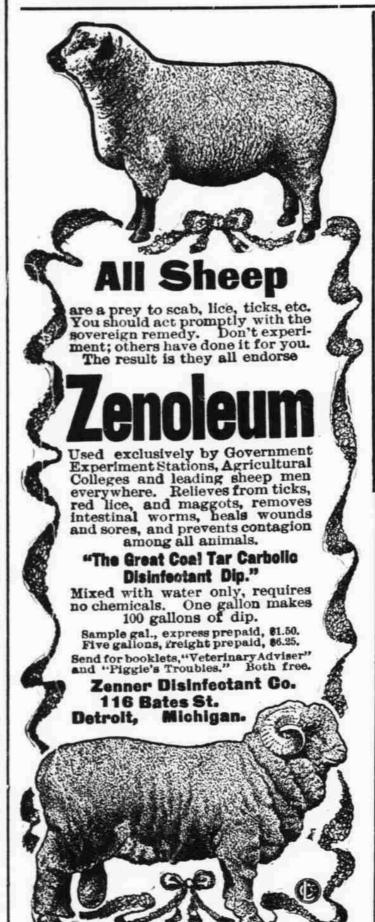
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